

## **FACT SHEET**

### **Public Information From:**

Franklin County Emergency Management and Homeland Security  
5300 Strawberry Farms Blvd.  
Columbus, Ohio 43230



**DATE:** November 10, 2010

**CONTACT:** Mark Anthony, Public Information

Work 614-794-0213, Cell 614-206-1162

Email [mdanthon@franklincountyohio.gov](mailto:mdanthon@franklincountyohio.gov)

### **ABOUT THE FRANKLIN COUNTY NATURAL HAZARDS MITIGATION PLAN**

- Hazard mitigation – such as flood insurance and protective building standards – is the sustained effort to reduce the risk of loss of life and property by lessening the impact of hazards. For example, rigorous building standards in 20,000 U.S. communities help save an estimated \$1 billion a year in preventable flood damages, according to the National Flood Insurance Program.
- The Franklin County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan was adopted in 2007 in response to the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, a federal effort to reduce the impact of disasters and to speed up response and recovery time after disasters occur. The 2007 county plan is required to be updated by February 2012.
- The Act requires local governments to approve and implement a mitigation plan that details specific goals and appropriate response actions to mitigate natural hazards in order to be eligible to receive federal funding for local hazard mitigation projects.
- The Franklin County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan is used to develop strategies for risk reduction for all mitigation activities throughout the county.
- The plan is primarily focused on response to natural disasters most likely to impact Franklin County, including floods, severe thunderstorms, tornadoes and severe winter weather. For example, mitigation projects and programs in the current plan include severe weather warning sirens, weather alert radios, and lightning detection/warning systems to be utilized when natural hazards occur.
- Specific goals of the 2007 plan include:
  - **Maintain Public & Private Infrastructure:** Determine areas most vulnerable to disasters and take measures to make them more resistant to natural disasters.
  - **Manage Debris Along Streams & Waterways:** Ensure local streams and waterways are maintained to promote hazard mitigation efforts.
  - **Minimize Damage to Public & Private Property:** Encourage both private and public sectors to work together to take measures to prevent damage to property.
  - **Reduce the Number of Repetitively Damaged Existing Structures:** Protect buildings particularly vulnerable during disasters by implementing safeguards that will help make them disaster-resistant.